



NUNAVUT VICTIM SERVICES

Annual Report 2015-2016

Community Justice Division

Department of Justice



INTRODUCTION

The Community Justice Division provides community level support and development of Victim Services through funding, to community based victim service programs.

Recognizing the need for additional victim service programs in Nunavut, Community Justice holds a contribution agreement with the Government of Canada's Policy Centre for Victims Issues (PCVI), as part of a five-year contribution agreement (2011-2016). Funding provided has increased the Victim Services team from one to three members, which include; a Victim Services Coordinator, Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator and the Victim Care Program Coordinator.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the fiscal year, Nunavut Victim Services have made significant progress both in addressing the needs of individual victims of crime in Nunavut and in developing a sustainable framework for victim services delivery within the territory.

Nunavut Victim Services continue providing support to Nunavummiut through a toll-free number (**1-866-456-5216**) and maintain an email address (victimservices@gov.nu.ca) to make Victim Services more accessible to Nunavummiut.

Public education and awareness on victim issues have also been a focus for 2015-16. The production of a teaching tool video, *Understanding the Nunavut Court Process*, was wrapped up and launched during the 2015 National Victims and Survivors of Crime Awareness Week. This project was spurred on by the need to provide an accurate, standardized information tool for victims of crime and their families who are going through the Justice system. All 25 Communities received memory sticks containing information in Nunavut's official languages on; victim services programs and available supports and a video on understanding the court process, and victims' rights as stated in the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights. One hundred and twenty six (126) memory sticks were sent out in total.

The Nunavut Victim Services staff facilitated a knowledge exchange in Rankin Inlet in March 2016. The knowledge exchange brought together 20 frontline workers i.e. RCMP members, Social Workers, a Mental Health Nurse, spousal abuse program staff, shelter staff, and 7 Community Justice Outreach Workers (CJOWs) from Kivalliq Region. The objectives of the workshop were to; raise awareness on victimization, cultivate empathy for survivors and collaboratively explore trauma informed approaches when working with victim of crime in our communities. During this knowledge exchange, victim services staff also reached out to CJOWs to enquire about types of issues they are more frequently dealing with. Moving forward, this information will assist Victim Services staff to enhance skills and programs for clients in these target areas.

In September 2015, the Policy Centre for Victim Issues (PCVI) hosted a national event on 'Victim Services for Families of Missing or Murdered Aboriginal Women. Nunavut was invited to present by sharing

some best practices and emerging issues in this specialized area of Victim Services. Nunavut Victims Travel Support Program (NVTSP) was showcased as a promising model for working with families of victims of homicide. There have been ongoing conversations with front line practitioners and policy makers from other jurisdictions who are considering pursuing a similar approach to ours.

The Victim Services team attended and held a few professional development workshops to develop further skills and to increase knowledge on the best practices used across the nation. These workshops included;

- A national conference hosted by The Edmonton Police in partnership with PCVI. This conference explored the challenges of providing programs that respond to the diverse needs of families of missing and murdered persons; supporting hope and the function of supporting families and core values of trauma informed service delivery and the subject of grieving physical and/or ambiguous loss.
- “Enhancing Empathy for Victims and Families of Offenders” - intensive training (train the trainer) on victim impact programs that could be delivered to volunteers or Victim Services staff for two purposes; 1) To assist victims of crime complete effective victim impact statements at Sentence Hearings and/or 2) for volunteers or Justice workers to prepare offender reintegration.
- “From Wound to Wellness” – this training offered culturally-rooted approaches on grief, trauma and resiliency in Indigenous communities from a strength based approach (March 2016).
- A knowledge exchange was facilitated that was reflective of the needs identified by communities as they relate to victim issues (March 2016).

NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

The Nunavut Victims of Crime Act establishes the Victims Assistance Fund and provides for the appointment of a Victims Assistance Committee.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

The Victims Assistance Fund (VAF) is a special purpose fund maintained with revenue from victim fine surcharges. The VAF does not provide direct financial compensation to individuals but rather, it supports community-based projects and activities that provide services and assistance to victims of crime through:

- **Training** geared toward sensitizing and informing community resource workers as to the needs and circumstances of victims of crime;

- **Direct services** that assist victims through crisis response, personal support, follow-up assistance, victim information and systems referral;
- **Public awareness and information** on the rights and responsibilities of victims, available services, the criminal justice system and its procedures and any issues relating to victims of crime, or
- **Research** into and the distribution of information about services to victims and the needs and concerns of victims.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

To ensure all Nunavummiut are represented, three (3) Victims Assistance Committee members are appointed by the Minister of Justice for a three (3) year term. Committee members are respected community members with knowledge of, and experience in dealing with, justice and social issues. Each Committee member represents one of three regions in Nunavut. The current Committee members are:

Rhoda Ungalaq, of Qikiqtaaluk – Committee Chairperson

Pamela Grosse of Kitikmeot Region

Cecilia Karlak of Kivalliq Region

Twice a year a call for proposals is made out to all Nunavut communities. Once proposals are received, the committee thoroughly reviews all submissions and recommends projects to the Minister of Justice for funding.

VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR

The Victim Services Coordinator works with community members and organizations as they submit proposals for funding from the Victims Assistance Fund by; providing information, answering questions, and offering support in preparing proposals for submission to the Victims Assistance Committee.

Over the past year, the Coordinator has been working to develop more effective ways of distributing the Victims Assistance Fund such as, creating improved contribution agreement and report writing templates.

The revised contribution agreement was created with departmental lawyers to ensure that the proposed projects and final reports are delivered in a timely manner. The new report writing template makes it easier for applicants who may be unilingual or who do not have formal education to successfully deliver a report on their projects.

Furthermore, the Victim Services Coordinator has been exploring ways to enhance the roles of the Victims Assistance Committee to better assist in helping victims of crime. This will ensure that the issues surrounding victims of crime are addressed appropriately by the Victims Assistance Fund.

FINANCIAL REPORT

See Appendix A

DISBURSEMENTS

Twice a year, a call for proposals for community-based projects, is sent out to all municipalities. The following disbursements and projects were approved for funding:



Coral Harbour Women's Group with finished dolls.

Project A) Women's Group, Coral Harbour

A carefully planned program was developed by the Coral Harbour Community Justice Outreach Worker. This program was geared towards women to help build confidence, self-reliance and to live healthy lives. Participants in this program learned sewing and cooking skills, as well as lessons about their right to live an abuse free life.

Requested amount: \$15,000.00

Project B) Peer Victim Support Leader Training Program (ACYF), Iqaluit

This program was created to provide teenage youth with leadership and communication skills to support other youth who disclose victimization or harm. Youth often trust other youth as a safe way to share their stories and ask advice on "what to do next", where they may be able to access emotional support

and/or mental health services. This training prepares youth with the skills and support to be peer leaders in their communities.

Requested amount: \$15,000.00

Project C) Inuit Ilagiit – Healthy Relationships, Pangnirtung

This Program was developed by the Hamlet of Pangnirtung. It is designed to deliver educational discussions and activities to individuals (primarily to teenagers and young adults) living in Pangnirtung that have experienced unhealthy relationships. This program will also offer counselling support to participants.

Requested amount: \$14,710.00

Project D) Boy's Youth Cultural Healing Journey, Cambridge Bay

The *Boys' Youth Cultural Healing Journey* is a program that was developed by the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre. This program focuses on teaching the concepts of power, authority, and responsibility to youth. This program is positive, "present-moment focused and action based". The intended goals are to have participants share their stories, experiences and wisdom, make plans and then put these plans into action.

Requested amount: \$ 14,788.00

Project E) Girl's Youth Cultural Healing Journey, Cambridge Bay

The *Girls' Youth Cultural Healing Journey* is a program that was developed by the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre. This program focuses on teaching the concepts of power, authority, and responsibility to youth. This program is positive, "present-moment focused and action based". The intended goals are to have participants share their stories, experiences and wisdom, make plans and then put these plans into action.

Requested amount: \$ 14,788.00

NUNAVUT VICTIM TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Department of Justice secured a five year funding from the Federal Government for a pilot project entitled "Nunavut Victims Travel Support Program". The fund enables those impacted by homicide and other violent crimes in Nunavut to travel and participate in certain court proceedings that are held outside their home communities. Each year, funding is allotted for program provisions which include air travel, accommodation and meals for the duration of a court process. Thus far, the Program has provided an opportunity for one hundred and seventy five (175) victims, family members, and support persons to attend court proceedings outside of their home communities.

NUNAVUT VICTIM CARE PROGRAM

The Nunavut Victim Care Program (Victim Care) is administered through the Victim Services Team of the Community Justice Division and funded through a contribution agreement with the Federal Government. Its mandate is to increase support and services for victims of crime in Nunavut through direct services to victims, public education and awareness activities, and strategic partnerships with other government and non-government agencies, including the development of a Victim Services policies and procedures manual.

APPENDIX A: VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016

Revenue

Opening Balance	\$ 200,023.75
Victim Fine Surcharges – Territorial	\$ 0.00
Victim Fine Surcharge -- Federal	\$ 54,971.38
Proceeds of Crime	\$0.00
Incomplete Project Refunds	\$ 0.00
Interest Accumulated (2015-16)	\$ 1,708.04
Total	\$ 256,703.17

Expenditures

Disbursements – Contribution Agreements	\$ 103,084.50
Honoraria	\$ 3,175.00
Total	\$ 106,259.50

CLOSING BALANCE **\$ 150,443.67**

The bank balances will differ from the amounts shown in approved projects because of cheques that have not been cleared from the VAF account. The Coordinator remains in continued communication with the project proponents.